

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Montpelier, Vermont**

**TEAM:** Independent & Federal Programs

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education acknowledge that the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEAS&C) granted accreditation to St. Paul Catholic School in Barton, VT, to serve students in grades K-8?

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the State Board of Education acknowledges that the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEAS&C) granted accreditation to St. Paul Catholic School in Barton, VT, to serve students in grades K-8. This approval is for five years through June 30, 2013.**

**Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Department of Education whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration during the approval period.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Title 16 V.S.A. §166(b)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. St. Paul Catholic School is a private, Catholic school, educating students in grades preK-8. As a parish school, the pastor is the canonical administrator and delegates the administrative, educational and operational responsibilities to the administrative team of the school. St. Paul Catholic School works with the Diocesan School Board, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools and the Diocesan School Office.
2. St. Paul Catholic School received initial accreditation by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEAS&C) in November of 2008. NEAS&C is an accrediting agency recognized by the Vermont State Board of Education, pursuant to Rule #7320. The school is expected to file a Two-Year Interim Evaluation Report by April 1, 2010, and a five-year report in 2013 at which time the accreditation will be reviewed.
3. The State Board of Education acknowledged the school's last accreditation by the Roman Catholic Diocesan Board of Education, an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education and listed in Rule 7320. In prior years, all Catholic elementary schools in Vermont were accredited by the Roman Catholic Diocesan Board.
4. St. Paul Catholic School has a policy on prevention of harassment of students that is as stringent as the Department's model policy.

**COST IMPLICATIONS:** None

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Montpelier, Vermont**

**TEAM:** Independent & Federal Programs

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of general and special education independent school approval, to serve a maximum of 24 students in grades 5-11, within the disability categories of Specific Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, and Other Health Impairment, to East Valley Academy, East Randolph, VT?

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the State Board of Education grant renewal of general and special education independent school approval, to serve a maximum of 24 students in grades 5-11, within the disability categories of Specific Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, and Other Health Impairment, to East Valley Academy, East Randolph, VT. This approval is for five years, through June 30, 2013.**

**Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Department of Education whenever changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration, during the approval period.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Title 16 V.S.A. § 166 (b)  
State Board Rule: 2228 et.seq.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. East Valley Academy is a day treatment school that can serve a maximum of 24 male and female students in grades 5-11, within the disability categories of Specific Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, and Other Health Impairment. East Valley Academy's mission is to provide treatment and educational services to children who exhibit emotional and behavior challenges. East Valley Academy is a part of The Clara Martin Center, a community-based mental health agency.
2. East Valley Academy was last granted renewal of general and special education independent school approval by the State Board of Education on October 21, 2003, through June 30, 2008.
3. On behalf of the Commissioner, Pat Pallas Gray, Ernie Wheeler, and Laura Glass visited East Valley Academy on November 6, 2008.
4. East Valley Academy is located in the former East Randolph Elementary School. The school building is a one-floor facility where academics take place within four large classrooms and a small gym. During the fall and spring months, the physical education/wellness classes often

take place in the back yard where there is a safe and open recreational space. The building also has staff office spaces, as well as a small library. The facility meets all state and federal health and safety regulations, is handicapped accessible, and meets the needs of the school.

5. The minimum course of study, as prescribed in 16 V.S.A. §906, is provided and adapted to the age and abilities of the students. The school's philosophy is to provide safe environments for youth to practice risk taking, to build skills, to encourage team cooperation, social skills, and respect of self and others. The curriculum, teaching methodologies, evaluation procedures, therapeutic interventions, and other special services utilized at East Valley Academy are designed to meet the unique educational needs of students with severe emotional, social, and behavioral challenges. There were eleven students enrolled on the day of the visit.
6. The school is staffed with a Program Director, a part-time licensed special educator, five teachers, and three behavioral interventionists. Related services are provided by the school clinician.
7. The student health, attendance, and assessment records were reviewed and found to be in good order. Fire drills are held on a regular basis.
8. The school maintains an operating schedule that includes a total number of instructional hours each year which is not less than that required of a public school serving the same grades.
9. The school submitted financial information to verify it has the capacity to operate during the period of approval.
10. East Valley Academy has developed policies for admissions, discipline, and significant change in placement. These were reviewed and found to be appropriate.
11. The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is part of the school's philosophy and each student's placement is based on individual needs for a LRE.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** None

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

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